

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**September 29, 2005**

---

A meeting of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education was held at the Shepard Building - 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903 and convened at 4:05 p.m.

---

**In Attendance**

J. DiPrete, C. Callahan, P. Guida, R. Camara, A. Beretta

**Public Remarks:**

There were no public remarks.

**Chairman's Remarks**

- Chairman DiPrete welcomed and congratulated PaulaJo Gaines, the new Director of Teacher Certification.
- He also congratulated Regent Colleen Callahan who received an invitation to participate and present Rhode Island's High School Regulations at the ASPEN Institute, a very prestigious national institute that deals with public policy and education.
- Chairman DiPrete told board members that Regent Grove has asked the members of the board to consider changing its Board of Regents meetings for November to December from November 10 to November 17 and December 8 to December 15.
- On the next Board of Regents meeting, there will be discussion agenda item on the possibility of appointing a student to the Board of Regents.
- Mr. DiPrete congratulated Joseph Militello, the President Elect of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The Board presented Mr. Militello with on certificate in recognition of his achievement.

**Approval of Minutes of the Board of Regents Meeting of August 25, 2005, Executive Minutes of August 25, 2005, and August 27, 2005 Retreat**

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2005, Executive Minutes of August 25, 2005, and August 27, 2005 Retreat as Presented.

**VOTE:** Approved Unanimously.

**Acceptance of Central Falls Teacher Contract for Commissioner's Signature for Advice And Consent**

Deputy Commissioner, David Abbott and Regent Amy Beretta, congratulated the Central Falls Teacher's union, Board of Trustees and administration for all their cooperation and hard work in negotiating this "revolutionary" contract.

Mr. Abbott reviewed the highlights of the agreement as follows:

- Re: pay increases – first year 0%; 2nd year 3%; 3rd year 3 ¼ %;
- Re: medical co-pay – first year 0%; 2<sup>nd</sup> year 5%; 3<sup>rd</sup> year 7 ½%;
- Re: professional development – the Board of Trustees/district maintains control over professional development activities; they have the power to decide subject matter and stipend;
- Expansion of length of school day and school year – 185 days/5 days of which are controlled by Superintendent;
- The inclusion of special education students no longer voluntary;
- Clarification of sporadic use of unassigned periods to duties such as, IEP meetings, etc.
- Study halls eliminated at the high school – all students will take 5/68-minute classes.

Regent Callahan voiced her concern about the changes affecting teacher and professional development. She urged members of the Central Falls Trustees and administration to consider re-establishing the teacher professional institute.

**MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Concur with the Approval of the Commissioner in the Approval of the Central Falls School District/Central Falls Teachers' Union Collective Bargaining Agreement.**

**VOTE: Approved Unanimously.**

#### Approval of Executive Pay Plan

RIDE Director of Human Resource Development, Paula Rossi, reviewed the agenda item on the Approval of the Executive Pay Plan. She reminded board members that the pay plan was being presented for fiscal years 2003-2004; 2004-2005; 2005-2006; 2006-2007; and 2007-2008 because there hadn't been any state pay raises for the last two years. She told members of the Board of Regents that the recommended range adjustments are consistent with across the board salary adjustments negotiated by the Governor with Council 94 as well as for other union and non-union state employees. The salary adjustment funds are consistent with the costs of statewide salary adjustments for across the board increases plus automatic step increases; and that consistent with Board Policy and previous pay plans, the entire fund established in each fiscal year shall be distributed on the basis of performance.

Ms. Rossi next reviewed the recommendation on employee contributions to the cost of his or her health benefits. The method proposed is consistent with that which is being put into effect for all other non-union unclassified employees of the state, as outlined in enclosure 5, attachment IV. Both the pay plan and benefit co-share contributions has been discussed, in detail, with the Board of Regents Personnel and Finance Committee and is being recommended for approval

**MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Implementation of the Executive Staff Pay Plan for the 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 fiscal years as presented in Attachments I, II, and III: and THAT, the Board of Regents Approve the Implementation of Health Benefit co-share for the 2005 and 2006 fiscal years as presented in Attachment IV.**

**Vote: Approved Unanimously.**

#### **Approval of FY '07 Budget Submittal**

The Chairman of the Board of Regents Personnel and Finance Committee, Robert Camara, reported that the Board's Finance committee has met three times over the summer to discuss the FY '06 budget. He emphasized that the committee has had very difficult issues to consider as it sought to meet the State Budget Office imposed budget. He went on to explain that what is being recommended for approval does not represent a funding plan to meet all of the needs of the state's public schools or the Department of Education. The FY 2007 budget, as presented is 90% of the FY 2006 enacted budget, a 10% reduction amounting to \$5 million. The Vision Services Program was held harmless, while funding was increased to support the growing Charter Schools and the Metropolitan Career and Technical Center. Housing Aid and Teacher Retirement were adjusted upward to meet service requirements, and for the first time in several years State Education Aid received an increase to districts totaling \$18.6 million. Carolyn Dias, the Director of Finance reviewed the FY '07 Budget, as follows:

- **Funding Source Summary** – FY 2007 “All Funds”/\$1.1 Billion
  - \$873M General State Revenue
  - \$183 M Federal
  - \$5M Restricted Receipts
  - \$1M Other (RICAP)
- **Target Instructions**
  - Add: \$18,607,490 Education Aid; \$2,628,906 Charter Schools;
  - \$1,237,245 Central Falls; \$1,021,078 Met School; \$3,500,000 Housing Aid; \$11,210,778 Teacher Retirement; \$2,496,978 COLA & Benefit Adjustments.

Total: \$40,702,475.

Decrease: \$400,000 Non-recurring Career & Technical Ed. Study Costs;  
\$4,986,919 10% Target Adjustment Reduction.

Total: \$5,396,919.

- **Request for Additional Aid** (Pending the availability of funds)  
Restore the 3% Budget Target (\$3.2M)  
Request an additional \$6.8M (\$10.0M)  
Link adequate funding with statewide efficiencies to lower costs – i.e.,  
Regional fuel purchases, statewide health benefit contracts, and state  
school food services contract. (Staff member Celeste Bilotti spoke more  
about these savings.)
- FY 2007 Budget Request Summary: Dollar Change and Percent Change  
FY'07 to FY'06.
- Review of how education money is spent statewide – Ed. Aid 94.7%,  
Salary & Wage 1.7%, Purchased Services 0.73%, Grants 2.7%.
- Administration of the Comprehensive Education Strategy
- State Schools – Davies Career & Technical School, Rhode Island School for  
the Deaf, the Metropolitan Career and Technical School, and Central  
Falls.

RIDE staff member Celeste Bilotti joined Ms. Dias to speak about possible statewide efficiencies such as regional fuel purchases, statewide health benefit contracts and a state school food services contract and the FY 2007 Education Air Request. (\$15M/2.5% increase). Ms. Bilotti also reviewed School Housing Aid/ \$50.7M (adds \$3.5M to the FY 2006 enacted housing aid number) and Teachers' Retirement/ \$69.8M (reflects an increase of \$11.2M per state budget office instructions). She also reviewed the FY 2006 Revised Budget highlights as follows:

- Total Budget \$1 Billion
- Total General Revenue \$841,901,354
- Major Changes: Dept. and State Schools COLA \$836,016; Davies Classroom Renovation \$255,528; Telecommunication Savings -\$275,000; Perkins School for the Blind Tuition -\$100,000; and Education Aid/ Group Home \$210,000, Charter Aid \$780,000, Emergency Energy fuel \$2.7M.

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Transmit the FY 2007 Budget to the Governor without adopting this budget proposal as adequate; and,

**THAT,** the Board of Regents Approve the FY 2006 Revised Budget for Transmittal to the Governor.

**VOTE: Approved Unanimously.**

**Executive Session**

As per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5~(1), the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. for Executive Session.

The meeting reconvened to open session at 8:09 p.m.

**Adjourn**

With unanimous consent the meeting adjourned immediately at 8:10 p.m.